

## Message Text

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53

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SSM-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10

/096 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. F-ATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MS. GREEN

NEA/ARP - MR. AHERNE

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

----- 049521

O R 171542Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

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AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USMISSION SINAI  
CINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 064551

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 16,  
1976:

Q. DO YOU KNOW OFFHAND HOW MANY ATOM BOMBS ISRAEL HAS?

A. I WAS ASKED THIS QUESTION YESTERDAY.

Q. I'M SORRY. I WAS AWAY.

A. I SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER RABIN HAD SAID THAT ISRAEL  
IS A NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRY AND THAT ISRAEL WILL NOT BE THE  
FIRST COUNTRY TO INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST.

Q. DID YOU CHECK THE RECORD?

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A. YES, WE DID.

Q. YOU KNOW THAT? YOU COULD SHOW THAT?

A. YES. I CHECKED THE RECORD. IF YOU CHECK THE TRANSCRI  
PT OF HIS INTERVIEW ON "ISSUES AND ANSWERS" ON ABC LAST  
SEPTEMBER.

Q. WELL, WE COULD HAVE ASKED THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT THAT.  
DO YOU TAKE HIM AT HIS WORD?

A. YES.

Q. COULD THEY HAVE BEEN BUILT IN THE MEANTIME?

Q. HAS ANY DECISION BEEN MADE YET ON THE LETTER OF OFFER  
TO THE EGYPTIANS?

A. NO. AS OF TODAY, I HAVE NOT BEEN INFORMED.

Q. IS THERE ANY U.S. EFFORT TO HELP SOLVE THE CRISIS IN  
LEBANON?

A. WE ARE FOLLOWING THE SITUATION IN LEBANON CLOSELY.  
AS WE HAVE INDICATED MANY TIMES, WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT  
AFTER ALL THE SUFFERING IN PAST MONTHS IN LEBANON THIS  
WILL END. OUR HOPE REMAINS THAT A SOLUTION WILL BE  
FOUND WHICH PRESERVES THE INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL  
INTEGRITY OF LEBANON AND ITS NATIONAL UNITY AND COHESION.

WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES  
AND ARE REAFFIRMING TO THEM OUR FIRM CONVICTION THAT  
THERE SHOULD BE NO UNILATERAL MILITARY ACTION BY ANY  
OUTSIDE POWERS IN LEBANON. THE UNITED STATES URGES  
RESTRAINT BY ALL OUTSIDE POWERS. WE WOULD NOT SUPPORT  
ANY UNILATERAL MILITARY ACTION BY ANY OUTSIDE POWER.

Q. THE SYRIANS, BY ALL ACCOUNTS, PLAYING A ROLE, OR A  
RESTRAINING ROLE, AT THE MOMENT; BUT THEY'RE INVOLVED IN  
LEBANON. DO WE SUPPORT THAT?

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A. WE LEAVE THAT UP TO THE JUDGMENT OF THE LEBANESE  
GOVERNMENT.

Q. DO WE KNOW OF ANY SYRIANS IN LEBANON AT THE MOMENT  
IN SYRIAN OR OTHER KINDS OF UNIFORMS?

A. WE HAVE SEEN THESE REPORTS, BUT WE HAVE NO CONFIRMED  
EVIDENCE THAT THEY ARE ACCURATE.

KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Draft Date:** 17 MAR 1976  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
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**To:** AMMAN MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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